

Viking Sage

You Just Had to Laugh...

PAGE 2
The Effects of Photoshop
Is social media safe?

PAGE 3
Parking Lot Chaos
100 years ago...

PAGE 6
Locker room Lockdown
Family Secrets

PAGE 7
Flappy...Or no?
Amazing...or not so much? A review

Northwest High School
Celebrating 50 Years
Grand Island, Nebraska
February 2013
Issue 6

With Photoshop, what is real anymore?



Reiley Hillman

STAFF WRITER

Photoshop. Making pictures impossible to believe anymore. Making unrealistic standards for how people should look. Creating false beliefs about "how amazing" a product really is.

Magazines, TV commercials, and billboards; they are all guilty of making people believe how something or someone looks is better than reality. This false belief is tricky and people should always be aware of it. Just because something looks good on TV doesn't mean it will be that great in person.

Photoshop is also indirectly guilty for ruining girls' self esteem because of makeup advertisers creating an image that is unattainable by most females. Knowing they can't look the way "females should" hurts their confidence, but they shouldn't even have to worry about it. Everyone is perfect

just the way they are.

Fashion magazines and billboards that show "flawless" women aren't real. Most pictures used in advertisements have been extremely modified, and just like in some food commercials, the product isn't even real. In my opinion, some advertisers are using Photoshop in a deceitful way without regard to public safety. For example, weight loss programs use "before" and "after" pictures that have been doctored for comparison. By doing this, they convince people of handing over money with hope that this program will actually work. They invest their hard earned money, only to be manipulated by companies taking advantage of Photoshop.

Looking through magazines can be hard if you're trying to look like the models in them, because not even the models look like that. Photo editors manipulate girls' faces and bodies to make them more "appealing to the eye". There are plenty of videos on YouTube

of people photoshopping "ugly" girls to look more appealing, and it's no different than what advertisers do.

I don't care if you're like me and don't have the best complexion, take a photo of yourself, and use Photoshop to clean up your face a bit. Or you actually use it to fix the lighting, fix the coloring, or add a cool edit that makes a picture more "old-school." That's all fine and dandy, but if you use it to manipulate people and use it for harmful ways, then that's not okay.

Photoshop is a great program when it isn't used for manipulation. Advertisers, magazines, billboards, TV commercials; all of them use Photoshop to their advantage, whether it be for their selfish needs or not.

I feel people would be able to feel better about themselves if they didn't have a "standard" to live by and if things we saw were actually what they were. Photoshop, in my opinion, is both a blessing and a curse.

Viking Saga

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Viking Saga

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Do you feel safe when posting on the internet?



"No, I don't trust people anymore; they are two-faced."

Calley Mayer
Sophomore



"No. Because it's too easy to track IP addresses."

Chris Wilson Berggren
Senior



"Some stuff is okay, but don't put your life story out there."

Maddie Hall
Junior

Don't get tangled up in the world wide web



Melissa Fries

STAFF WRITER

You know when you're having a bad day, it's always nice to type up a venting status and have a few friends comment with condolences or sending out a tweet with *#CanThisDayEnd?*

What some, or probably most, people would call annoying, is a way that everyone expresses themselves over the internet. It's a way for people to vent in a non violent manner.

Social networking sites are wonderful tools for expression. It allows you the freedom to share your ideas and show the true side of you to anyone who is interested. And the best part is....it's totally secure....right?

Or maybe it's not.

When you expose yourself to social media, you are building a world with personal in-

formation about your self that anyone in the world can have access to.

Absolutely anyone.

Once it's posted on the internet, it's there forever. I don't think most people realize how serious this is. You can't just hit the delete button on your web history. That doesn't suddenly make everything ok. Once you post a picture or a status on the internet, it's there forever. I guess it's all fun and games until someone ruins their own reputation or someone else's.

In a perfect world the internet would be a completely safe place, but that is just not the world we live in. By allowing yourself to become public, you allow the public to see everything about you.

By posting "me and the rents r going to Florida *#BeDontJelly*" this may be inviting potential robbers to come and break into your house. Okay, maybe I'm exaggerating a bit. But it is still a possibility.

You can't ever know just who is Googling your name or who is saving the pictures you post.

You should be mindful of everything you post. Potential employers can have a look at your profile; do you really think that they are going to hire someone whose profile picture is partying and you passed out with friends? Or when you have profanity all over your blog?

But there are ways to protect yourself on the "inter web."

One thing is, you should only add people you know on Facebook. Just because you have over 1,000 friends doesn't mean you are suddenly cool.

Second, you should be sure to keep privacy settings tight. When it comes to web privacy, you can never be too careful.

But the most important thing you can do is be mindful of what you post. If you wouldn't want your grandmother to see it, don't post it.

Precipitation prompts parking lot pandemonium

Bibiana Luevano

STAFF WRITER

What is one thing that most teenagers value highly? If you would stop a handful of students in the hallway, most would mention money, games, appearance or even food. Yet, there is something else that will manage to make its way into a young teen's heart. For some, it is deemed more vital than the need to pass that certain level in Candy Crush, and for others it is ranked above the importance of doing something special for their own high-school sweetheart.

The answer is... vehicles. They are regarded, to some students, as a representation of freedom, and for others it is a chance to undertake responsibility.

Juniors and seniors alike gain their first lifetime experience in driving, and with this in play, there comes an immediate need for a parking lot. It is merely an innocent and practical chain reaction that occurs when it involves the newly available chance for teens to operate such machinery. High-schools have a large portion of upper classmen attending school, who in turn require a vehicle in order to travel to their educational facility, thus leading to the conclusion of needing a parking lot.

Yet, there is always a controversial view on high-school parking lots in general, and it is not just because of student drivers. Parking lots themselves can create difficulties, whether it is through the layout of the parking area, or the place of location.

Northwest has provided parking privileges for fifty years and counting. Through this time, adjustments have been made, and various rules have been set. Unfortunately, the Northwest High-school parking lot still has problems that arise. Some issues are merely mundane and forgivable, while others practically glare with required attention.

The winter months are a prime example for the chaos that ensues within the school's parking grounds. Vehicles are scattered all about in a mix-matched attempt of dominos. Smaller cars become boxed in, and both trucks and SUVs line up in every-which way.

"Students should know where the lines are, whether there is snow on the ground or not. Some take advantage of snowy parking lots to park where they please," senior Kaitlin Verba said.

Yet, not all agree with Verba's voice of reasoning. Plenty of people deem that the issues that arrive on a



With each snowfall, the parking lot devolved into chaos. Many students complained about being blocked in by other cars, and about students who would randomly park in places not usually designated for parking.

Photo by Bibiana Luevano

snowy day are the school's responsibility.

"On snow days, I think that the school needs to understand that students can't see the lines. We have no way of knowing where to park correctly, so they have no right to be upset," junior Dani Johnson said.

Although, many would deem the job of clearing a snowy parking lot to be the principals; it is not so. The responsibility of conducting such actions rests upon the shoulders of the maintenance crew. Yet, the reason that the school's parking lot remains to be unclean on a school day is because of the time it takes to complete such a great task. Many times students remain at the school for after school activities, or early morning practice, thus leaving the inability to clear the parking lot without a student's vehicle becoming damaged.

Students who experience the frustrations and difficulties that arise within the parking during school hours are not the only ones who find it to be stressful. Insight from vice principal Scott Axt deems that this situation also affects the faculty.

"We get a lot of parent complaints, because that's where we really, kind of, have to start to police a little bit more... The biggest area we're concerned about is the traffic flow after school. We get a lot of complaints and we get yelled at, because people want us to move [the flow of traffic in order] to try and get out. We have people park out in the front, over top of the lines, where they're not supposed to. It really causes more congestion, and then we got angry parents that are mad because they are here to pick up students, and it causes a big problem," Axt said.

Therefore, working members of Northwest have begun to issue small orange tickets as a warning for students who have violated the parking regulations. If a student receives multiple offenses for parking incorrectly, then the school calls the police in order for them to be cited, and the probability of being forced to park off of the school grounds becomes a high one.

"We try to be as patient and flexible as possible, but we also have to maintain a kind of orderly flow," Axt said.

History of the Month

February 1, 1960: the first sit-in was staged in Greensboro, Alabama, when four high school students sat down to order coffee and were refused service. These students sat at the counter all day long, then repeated the action for the next few days.

February 8, 1910: the Boy Scouts of America was founded in Washington D.C. It was molded after the British Boy Scouts.

February 20, 1962: John Glenn became the first American to be launched into orbit.

February 24, 1917: The Zimmerman Note was discovered, bringing the US in to World War I.

Laura Springer
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Owners:
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Hanna Yelkin
Senior
Vikettes



"Well, during the summer at NDA camp we were doing our home routine and as I went up to do my tilt jump, Taylor Hoos kicked me while in midair and we got it on video and we watched it over and over again!"

Isaiah Dawes
Sophomore
Boys Basketball



"I have these bracelets that I always wear around my wrist. One day at practice, I gave them to Coach Garrett to wear. He started acting like a girl and kept up the act the entire practice. It was hilarious."

Kaylee Gibson
Freshman
Speech



"One time I grabbed the wrong script book for our OID (oral interpretation of drama) performance. I hadn't realized it until we were almost there so it was impossible to go back and get it from my house. Luckily, one of my OID partners brought an extra copy. I quickly switched out the wrong script with the right script and highlighted all my parts in less than ten minutes."

Kristen Setlik
Freshman
Swimming



"At the UNK swim meet, I accidentally walked into the boys' locker room...while they were showering! I just walked in the door and bam! They all saw me and started yelling...but it's all good, me and my friends all laugh about it now!"

Oops! N

*Students in winter activities
embarrassing--and hilarious--*

Spread by La
Jennifer
Adrian

Kenzie Burnham
Senior
Winter Ball Queen



"We [senior Madeline Butler] were eating at the Cheesecake Factory and it was really busy. We were waiting at the counter looking at menus. I was texting and my elbow was sticking out, [and] this lady was rushing to get people their cheesecake. She nails my elbow, spins around, and the cheesecake falls to the ground and whipped cream splatters all over these people. We stand there without a drop on us and everyone stands there just looking at us, so we moved."



Katelyn Placke
Senior
Girls Basketball

"I threw the ball to [senior] Erin Sorahan, and as I was throwing her the ball, the ref called a foul on the girl who was guarding me, so we all stopped playing. While I was standing there, I got ran into from behind and laid out by [senior] McKenzie Brown. I got "TANKED!"

My bad...
share some of their most
moments from this season.

ura Springer
Clement
Arroyo



Dalton Stout
Senior
Winter Ball King

"Freshman year whenever there was a football game, they put a plexiglass box over the "NW" on the floor near the counselor's office. For school spirit, you could not step on the "NW." So one day I was walking down the hallway when I saw a giant hole in the crowd and I wanted to avoid the crowd, so I walked into the hole. I did not know the plexiglass box was there so I tripped and face planted, and then got yelled at by the football team."



Kelly Hostler
Senior
FFA

"I was at Leadership Skills Event and I was all dressed up in my FFA outfit, so I was wearing heels. Well, I got a little off balance and almost fell on top of this kid. Later that day, he asked me for my number. I laughed and I didn't give it to him."



Darrek McNelis
Senior
Boys Basketball

"One of the funniest moments this year was when we pranked Coach Burkett. We saw this video going around on vine and wanted to try it. The prank is where someone throws an alley-oop to a teammate, someone else holds a hoop behind yet another person's head, then the teammate dunks it. Well, we brought our own little hoop and ball and set it up in the hallway. Coach was just walking along when we threw the pass and he got dunked on. Every player on our team started laughing."



Caiti Lilienthal
Junior
Show Choir

"The most embarrassing moment I had this year, was the rehearsal that I pinguined across the risers. It was the very first time we ever ran through our show with the band. Everything was going great until I ran into both Brady Powers AND Garrett Koepp, which knocked me over. I slid down two full risers onto my stomach."

Locker room lockdown creates frustration

Laura Springer
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Causing an inconvenience for many students, the administration has recently began keeping the athletic locker rooms locked until 8 am. Once school begins, the locker rooms are locked and kept that way throughout the entire school day. This has caused many problems for students, especially those involved in early morning activities.

"It's a problem because I don't have time to get ready for school after IBA [Intramural Basketball Association], and then I end up almost being late to first period," said senior Rachel Phinney.

Blame for the "lockdown" has gone back and forth between the girls and boys, each claiming that it is the other gender's fault. But in all reality, both the boys and the girls have blame to share.

"The locker rooms actually became a topic of discussion last year. There was fight in the boys locker room that lasted fifteen minutes before any staff member found out and was able to intervene and stop it. Discussion [about problems in the locker rooms] kind of just carried into this year as more and more incidents piled on top," explained vice principal Scott Axt.

Some girls had been using the couch in the locker room to lounge during classes, while others may have used it as a place to hide or escape a class. There have been numerous thefts reported in both the girls and guys

locker rooms.

There have also been other reports of fights before school in the boys locker room. Subsequently, all this happened when there was no teacher supervision in the locker rooms.

"I think having the locker rooms locked when there is no supervision will prevent future problems and stop it from being a 'hangout,'" said P.E. teacher and coach Denise Coughlin.

Teachers are allowed to unlock the locker room for students during the day as long as they can stick around to supervise. This is a solution for students who may have forgotten to get a book from their gym locker or came to school late.

Axt also suggested that keeping the locker rooms locked might encourage students to start using their hall lockers for school supplies instead of their gym lockers. The administration and staff know that it is an inconvenience for many students, but Axt suggested that students should start taking on a different mindset for the day as far as scheduling goes.

Axt explained that keeping the locker rooms locked throughout the day and in the morning shouldn't be thought of as a punishment, but rather as a way to create a better school environment.

"We're hoping that by having supervision in the locker rooms, we can increase safety for all students and prevent future mischief and fights," he concluded.



Girls wait outside the locker rooms in the morning before school. It is a common sight to see a crowd of girls sitting in the hallway by the south entrance; they must wait to be let into the locker room by a teacher or coach. Photo by Staff

Parental Supervisor Required

Get an inside look on students who have to face their parents everyday, whether they want to or not. Principal Tim Krupicka and his son Ben, freshman, give us an inside look on some of their most embarrassing, yet funny, moments.

Mr. Krupicka



What is your most embarrassing moment?
At my previous school, I was Ben's middle school principal. I would sometimes sit with him and his friends at lunch and I would try to be a fatherly figure by telling him to eat his vegetables. One day he said, "Dad! Look at the rest of the table. You don't tell anyone else to eat their food." I was definitely embarrassed.

How do you handle an embarrassing moment?
I start by turning red. If it isn't too embarrassing and if it was my fault, I make sure to apologize. And then I try not to be embarrassed after it happens.

Ben Krupicka

What is your most embarrassing moment?
When I got sent to the office for trying to give my 6th grade principal a high five.

Was it public?
It was during lunch and a lot of people saw it.

Are you still embarrassed or do you look back now and laugh?
It wasn't funny when it first happened, but now, I think it's hilarious!

Angelica Carlini
ADS MANAGER

During lunch from March 10-12, vote for your favorite male teacher's legs! Sponsored by Student Council, "Mr. Legs" is a guessing game that all students are encouraged to participate in!!

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Together, we can save a life



After the reboot, is Spider-Man still looking “Amazing”?

Kyler Janecek
STAFF CRITIC

Anyone who watched the Super Bowl—and a few various people like me who would never be caught dead watching the Super Bowl—will probably have seen the trailer for the new *Spider-Man* movie and realized that there's going to be a new *Spider-Man* movie or something. Of course, it's not a completely new venture. Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone will be returning to the roles of Peter Parker and Gwen Stacy from their excellent performances in *The Amazing Spiderman* of 2012. As you may have guessed, *Rise Of Electro* will be the sequel.

Now if you know me in person, you may have previously heard me talking about my anger towards this movie, but I have recently swallowed my pride enough to actually watch it in full, and I basically take it back. I'm quite impressed with a number of aspects. The characters were all very strong, and Andrew Garfield pulls off his role well. He portrays the awkwardness and the outcast feeling of Peter Parker, while at the same time becoming the smooth, cocky Spider-Man. Another character I liked a lot was Gwen Stacy's father. As the Chief of Police with a hatred for Spider-Man, you'll take him very seriously until the moment when you realize that his last name is Stacy. Then you will probably laugh.

The costuming looks better than ever before, and the story is very gripping at times. However, the movie had its share of disappointments as well. It starts off slowly, for one, but that's pretty much expected. Also, I've never really felt that The Lizard was a compelling enough villain to occupy a whole movie on his own, and this movie didn't completely change my mind about that. Both of these problems are small, and furthermore, both will probably be fixed in the sequel. Without a lengthy introduction explaining Parker's powers and backstory, the next movie will hopefully hit the ground running. And as far as the villains go, *Rise Of Electro* promises great things.

Electro, obviously, is the main villain. Even if you haven't heard of him (and I'll be honest, I knew nothing about him before this) you can probably imagine what he'll be like. Expect a lot of electricity, basically. Now, Electro on his own would probably be insignificant in the “bad guy” category. That's why the movie is also featuring Green Goblin. And if that doesn't excite you, you are sad and wrong.

The plot is unknown currently, but we know Electro's backstory, and a little about some events that are expected to happen. Still, it's expected to become a lot more interesting come this May.

Now, let's compare this to the old trilogy. You know the one I'm taking about, and it's not as old as you think. It only ended back in 2007, remember? You all remember that far back. If you don't, you're probably not old enough to even be attending this school. Those movies featured only the most famous and most interesting villains, but they had some flaws of their own as well. So how will the new series add up? The older one was iconic to a whole generation, and many still regard Tobey Maguire as the real, irreplaceable Spider-Man. The Green Goblin from the early 2000's is still widely accepted as the true incarnation of the villain. The series took fans on a wild ride through a retelling of a popular story that blew many away. Can this series add up to that? From the first movie, my answer is no. It was a good movie, to be sure, but not as amazing as it claimed to be.

Still, *Spider-Man* isn't the first series of successful superhero movies to undergo many incarnations. The *Batman* movies as well have been redone time and time again. Let's look at the most recent venture, *Batman Begins*. It was nothing that landmarking, really. *Dark Knight* was the one to really blow everyone away. *Begins* did set up a nice prequel, though, and in the long run it turned out to be a great move for the whole series. It is comparable to *The Amazing Spider-Man* in many ways.

So was that their plan this whole time? Take after the Caped Crusader, and slowly build up to a climax in the second movie? It's completely possible, with a confirmed appearance from Goblin and a rumored plot twist that I won't mention. *Rise* could very well be the climax the series has needed. Either that, or it could be a complete flop. I suppose we'll just have to wait until this May to find out, and then spend the next few months arguing about exactly what conclusion we as a fanbase have come to.

Order your yearbook before March 21!

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Game over for Flappy Bird

Bibi Luevano
STAFF WRITER

Flappy Bird was in the air; the newest game that had created a monumental amount of pandemonium, and addicting frustration in the entertainment business, throughout America. Unfortunately for Flappy Bird addicts everywhere, the creator of this game has officially pulled the game off of the app market.

Yet, one must wonder how a game such as this had created such a buzz throughout the lives of Americans in the first place?

Flappy Bird is a rather mundane game in the graphics department. There is not much choice for color, other than the various times that the bird changes its hue from a blue to a simplistic red.

Plus, one must consider the little bird itself. Sure, it may be a game, but I've come to find that the disproportional size of the bird's wings to its body is absurd. I must also highlight the topic concerning the placement of the bird's body when it dies. I've found it equally disturbing, as well as comical, that the poor bird always manages to land on its beak, only after slamming face first into



a strange green contraption. Not that these things truly matter, but as a player, I find that this adds to the aggravation factor of the game.

Nothing spectacular can be found about this app at first glance. In fact, after merely viewing the description of Flappy Bird, you begin to question the sanity of your peers. Those classmates were once average high-school teens, before having become such vicious, raving madmen over the very concept of Flappy Bird.

There is no million dollar prize at the end of the game, and above all, it looks to be a cheaper version of the famous Mario Brothers. All that you must do, is to tap the screen in order to ensure a safe trip

around the pipes jutting out from the top and bottom part of the screen. Easy as pie, or even tying your shoe, right?.... Or is it?

In reality, the cute little bird is all just an innocent front. This game is a whole new world of gory aggravation and of mindless stupor. The objective of the game is the simplest that can be created, when in reality, succeeding in passing the game is not. Instead, it draws the player into a place that no sane human should ever venture into: the flappy side...

Congratulations to the Northwest journalism staffs on their performance in the 2014 JEA Winter Journalism Contest:

Kyler Janecek
Entertainment Review Writing

Excellent

Laura Springer
Newswriting

Excellent

Newspaper Layout

Honorable Mention

Sports Feature Writing

Excellent

Melissa Fries

Newspaper Feature Writing

Honorable Mention

Angelica Carlini & Melissa Fries
InDepth Newspaper Coverage

Honorable Mention

Courtney Lierman

Sports Action Photography

Honorable Mention

Kayla Johnson

News/Feature Photography

Honorable Mention

Yearbook Feature Writing

Honorable Mention

Yearbook Sports Feature Writing

Honorable Mention

Logan John

Yearbook Theme Copy Writing

Honorable Mention



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